



# State of New Jersey

## DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION OF SOLID AND HAZARDOUS WASTE

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**PHILIP D. MURPHY**  
*Governor*

**SHEILA Y. OLIVER**  
*Lt. Governor*

**SHAWN M. LATOURETTE**  
*Acting Commissioner*

January 22, 2021

Phillip S. Miller, Executive Director  
Mercer County Improvement Authority  
80 Hamilton Avenue, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor  
Trenton, New Jersey 08611

Dear Mr. Miller:

The Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Solid and Hazardous Waste (Department) is in receipt of a request for administrative action to the Mercer County District Solid Waste Management Plan (County Plan) dated December 9, 2020. The request proposes a research, development and demonstration (RD&D) project at Community Food Cycle, LLC (CFC) located on a portion of Block 14, Lot 15 in Hopewell Township. Specifically, CFC plans to process source separated food waste through several methods of composting to produce a viable soil amendment. CFC will accept up to 5 tons per day (Monday through Friday from 8:00am to 4:00pm) of source separated food waste and process it using several different composting methods, using in-vessel aerobic composting and Bokashi fermentation.

The initial source of the food waste will be from curbside residential collection. The material will be collected and delivered to the facility approximately 2-3 times per day. Food waste will be delivered and tipped onto a concrete pad that houses a bio-separator. The material is screened, and any large contaminants are removed. The material then passes through the bio-separator, where any remaining contaminants, such as plastics, metals and other non-compostable products are removed. The material is then mixed with bulking agents, such as wood chips or leaves, and then introduced to the in-vessel composter. CFC is proposing to use a Brome 624 in-vessel system to compost the material. This composter regularly turns the material as it reaches a temperature of 131 degrees F. The process takes approximately one week to fully compost. The other method to be used is known as Bokashi Fermentation, which is an aerobic fermentation process that does not off-gas methane. The food waste is placed in covered holding tanks and allowed to ferment for 10 days. The liquid "tea" will then be used as a soil amendment and the solid portion will be used as a compost ingredient product.

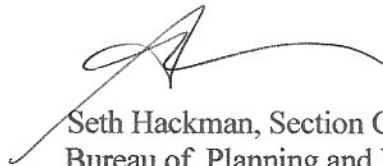
The purpose of the RD&D project is to develop and fine-tune these composting processes to produce a model for other municipalities to incorporate and allow them to manage their residential food waste streams for a (1) year period beginning on the date the RD&D is approved by the Bureau of Recycling and Hazardous Waste Management. If, at the end of the one year of

operation, CFC can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Department that a longer time period is required to adequately assess long term environmental impacts and operational effects of the technology or process being evaluated, Mercer County may then request an administrative action to the County Plan for the extension of the RD&D.

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:26-6.11(b)13, the inclusion of an operation of a RD&D project pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:26-1.7 constitutes an approvable administration action. Therefore, the County Plan inclusion of the RD&D project at CFC is hereby approved as an administrative action pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:26-6.11(f).

If you have any questions relative to this action, please contact Joanne McClendon of my staff at (609) 984-4250 or email at [joanne.mcclendon@dep.nj.gov](mailto:joanne.mcclendon@dep.nj.gov).

Sincerely,



Seth Hackman, Section Chief  
Bureau of Planning and Licensing

